State Governcents are required to comply these stipulated safeguards.

(b) In accordance with the provisions of the detailed guidelines issued for regularisation of encroachments on forset land, formal approval for diversion of 1.03 lakh ha. and 1,367 ha. of forest land in Madhya Pradesh and Andman and Nicobar Islans respectively have been accorded under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for regularisation of encroachments on forest land.

Siltation of Bharat River

4107. SHRI D. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat River (Bharat Puzha) considered as the life-line of Kerala State is becoming a sandy desert due to high siltation on account of cutting of forests;

(b) if so, what action Government have taken or contemplate to take to prevent siltation and make the river safe;

(c) whether Government have received any scheme from the State Government of Kerala in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRON MENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The rate of siltation of Bharat river is high, but it is not on account of cutting of forests.

(b) and (c) The Government of Kerala have not sent any specific forestry scheme to prevent siltation of Bharat river.

(d) Question does not arise.

Extinction of Siberian Cranes

4108. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a press news-item captioned 'Crane import proves an exercise in vain as reported in the Indian Express dated 10th March, 1993;

(b) if so, the facts and details in this regard;

(c) whether due to negligence the Siberian cranes are facing extinction; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Government has seen the news report.

(b) An experiment was carried out to release regard Sibelian Crane Chicks in the fast dwndiling population of the Western flock of Siberian Cranes which winters in Bharatpur. The experiment has been carried out in collaboration with International Crane Foundation of USA and Ornithologists of Russia and Japan, in Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Bharatpur, during this year. The objectives of the experiment *inter alia* were to establish the migration route of these birds from India to Siberia, the exact beeding ground of this population in Siberia and to build up the dwindling stock of the flock. Two Siberian Crane chicks were brought from Russia. Before their import into the country they were subjected to full scale health checks in Russia. On arrival on 12-2-1993 these were taken to Bharatpur directly where arrangements for their sepeate quaantine were

made. The two birds were released in the sanctuary on 26th and 28th February, 1993 after observing their health for more than a fortnight and after a proper medical check up and quarantine release based on health documents and veteriary doctor's certificate. There was, thus, no neglect of precautions necessary before release of imported birds into the wild. The wild flock, took off on 3-3-93. The reared birds did not joint the flock in migration. The experiment would need to be repeated over the next 3-4 years to get definite results.

(c) the Western Flock of Siberian Cranes has dwindled sharply due to disturbance in their breeding grounds in Siberia and in the range countries on their migration route.

(d) The experiment of relasing the reared chicks among the wild is proposed to be continued in Siberia and in India.

Social Forestry Programme

4109. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an afforestation scheme has been formulated under the Social Forestry programme to remove the shortage of fuel and fodder and also to cater the demand on large scale in the 100 districts of the country;

(b) if so, what is the number of districts identified in Madhya Pradesh for this scheme; and

(c) what are the names of the districts in Madhya Pradesh together with the amount spent thereon under this scheme during the years 1988-89 to 1992-93 and what are the details of the action taken and achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) One of the main objectives of the Social Forestry Programme is to redress the shortage of fuelwood and fodder in the country. In addition, a centrally sponsored scheme, on a matching share basis, titled the Area Oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Projects Scheme is being implemented in 190 fuelwood deficit districts in the country.

(b) and (c) The districts in Madhya Pradesh in which the scheme is being implemented are Rewa, Ratlam, Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior, Jhabua, Seoni, Jabalpur, Bilaspur, Raipur, Satna, Sagar, Durg, Khandwa, and Panna. During the period 1988-89 to 1992-93, central grant of Rs. 801.25 lakhs has been released to the Madhya Pradesh State Government under the scheme on a matching share basis for covering an area of 25122 hectares.

"चिल्का झील के संबंध में सेमिनार"

4110. **श्री अजीत जोगी :**
श्री छोटू भाई पटेल :

क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भुवनेश्वर में विभिन्न संगठनों/पक्षों द्वारा हाल ही में चिल्का झील के संबंध में एक सम्मेलन आयोजित किया गया था ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(ग) झील के संबंध और सुधार के लिये सेमिनार में सर्वसम्मत राय क्या थी; और

(घ) इस संबंध में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमलनाथ) : (क) सूचना मिली है कि उड़ीसा कृषक महासंघ द्वारा चिल्का झील से संबंधित अन्य स्वैच्छिक ग्रुपों के सहयोग से 1 नवम्बर, 1992 को भुवनेश्वर में एक जन सभा और संगोष्टी का आयोजन किया गया था।

(ख) से (घ) की गई चर्चाओं और सिफारिशों के ब्यौरे सरकार को प्राप्त नहीं हुये हैं।